

REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

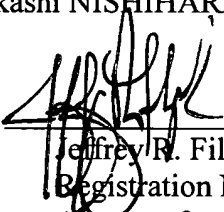
Minor editorial amendments have been made to the specification. No new matter has been added.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-36 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 37-72 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi NISHIHARA et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 26, 2006